-(b) The allotment made to North East Region during 2004-05 to 2006-07 is as under:-

(Rs in crore)

	Total Allocation out of GBS	Gauge Conversion
2004-05	509.59	253.7
2005-06	402.91	241.68
2006-07 (Provisional)	727.51	441.49

Public amenities

705. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public amenities in most of the trains and on most of the stations are not upto mark or very less for large number of passengers;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government; and

(c) whether Government would take any action for proper care of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Based on design standards and laid down norms, passenger amenity items are provided in the coaches and efforts are made to ensure proper upkeep and functioning.

Indian Railways have more than 8000 stations. It has always been the endeavour of the Railways to provide adequate amenities to the passengers at the stations. Based on the passenger earnings of the stations, these have been categorized into 7 categories, *i.e.* A-l, A, B, C, D, E & F. Minimum essential amenities have been prescribed depending upon category of the station. Minimum essential amenities have been provided at all stations. Certain amenities are provided at the time of construction of new stations based on anticipated traffic. Amenities are further augmented from time to time based on the needs and subject to availability of funds.

Operation of Churchgate-Borivali section by private players

706. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to allow private agencies to operate the Churchgate-Borivali section of the Western Railway in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the agency/agencies evincing interest in the offer and short-listed; and

(c) the details of the operating expenditure and earnings on this section per trip during the last three years and the earnings expected from privatisation of the section during the next three years per trip?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Neglect of Urdu language

707. SBR1 SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Urdu is an Indian language spoken and written from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways in the past gave great importance to Urdu language and the Railways are neglecting Urdu in the recent past; and

(c) if so, what action his Ministry has taken to do justice with Urdu Language

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The information is being collected from Ministry of Hunan Resources and Development.

(b) The Ministry of Railways have always accorded due respect to Urdu Language in the past and it has never been neglected

(c) Does not arise

Safety of passengers

708. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of theft in trains;

(b) whether it is a fact that many cases of theft reported in the Kerala bound trains recently;

(c) if so, the details of the such cases reported since January, 2006;

(d) whether compensation has been provided to the victims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the measures taken for the safety of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There has been a decrease in the incidents of thefts of passengers' belonging as against 10846 number of eases of thefts of passengers' belonging reported during the year 2005, 10103 cases have been reported during the year 2006.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. During the year 2006 and 2007 (up to July), the cases of thefts reported in Kerala bound trains are as under:-

Years	Number of Cases
2006	192
2007 (upto July)	102